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Record of sunfish *Mola mola*, landed at Malpe Fisheries Harbour, Karnataka

A sunfish *Mola mola* belonging to family Molidae (Order Tetraodontiform) was landed at Malpe Fisheries Harbour by a multi-day trawler on 7th January 2006. The sunfishes are found in all tropical and temperate waters,



Mola mola

but they prefer open oceans. They are adapted for sluggish life and are, pelagic predators of jelly fishes and other larger invertebrates. They are found to inhabit mesopelagic zone and most commonly at a depth of about 300 m. The body of the fish is scaleless and covered with thick skin. Dorsal and anal fins are very high with short base. Pectoral fins are small and rounded, and directed upward. Mouth is very small, teeth fused to form a parrot-like beak.

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